



Stephens City Newsletter

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 2

MARCH AND APRIL 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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Stephens City Newsletter is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens, to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged. Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by mail: P.O. Box 250, Stephens City, VA 22655

Phone: 869-3087 **Fax:** 869-6166 **Police:** 868-1012 **Website:** www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov



Hop In at the Commons

(Sponsored by the Stephens City Business Association)



Saturday, March 27, 2010
2:00pm to 4:00pm
At the Newtown Commons
Main Street
Stephens City, VA

(For directions visit www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov)



This will be a social celebration for family and friends.

There will be Easter Egg decorating, an Easter Egg hunt, Egg Rolling, Bunny Hop Sack Race, Story Time with the Easter Bunny, Refreshments and much more for children 5th grade and below.

FESTIVITIES BEGIN PROMPTLY at 2:00pm!

EGG HUNT - 2:15pm

All other events will occur from 2:45pm - 4:00pm

It's going to be one Hopping Event!



Keep checking the Town's Website, event may be relocated due to inclement weather!

Parks and Recreation News...

The Stephens City Parks and Recreation Committee is currently working on several improvements in the coming year at the Town parks. The following projects are in the works: 1.) new playground equipment at the park on Bel Air Street. 2.) creation and dedication of a Veterans Memorial on the Commons. 3.) the relocation construction of a new stage and pavilion on the Commons. More information to come...

Ron Bowers, Committee Chair

From the Town Manager's Desk...

The winter of 2009-10 will go down in our memories as one of those bad winters. I have been around for quite a few winters and have witnessed many storms come and go, but I must admit this winter will rank fairly high in my memory with regard to snow accumulation and frequency. This winter has presented its challenges, and it isn't over yet, but the days are getting longer and the end is in sight.

I thought I would take this opportunity and write about the snow removal effort during this last storm. The Town's population is less than 3,500, therefore the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is responsible for clearing Town streets that are within the state secondary road system (the streets that have numbers posted). Most of the streets within the Town are within the system, but several are not. Some streets in the newer subdivisions have yet to be accepted by VDOT. Therefore the Town took responsibility to have the snow removed during the storms. VDOT enlisted the

Continued on page 3...

SNOW REMOVAL

It has been one of those Historic Winters and as we all know there is still a very real possibility of snow, so in short this is what is required by the Town Code.

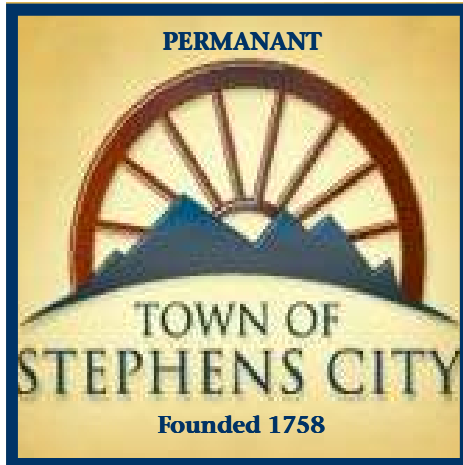
Property owners or occupants must clear all public sidewalks of snow where sidewalks front their property. This must be done within 6 hours after snow has ceased to fall or no later than noon the next day if snowfall stops overnight. Please contact the Town Office if you have any questions.

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDARS!

THE NEWTOWN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

May 29th-30th

*Look for the Special
Newtown Heritage
Festival Newsletter
Edition in May!*



Do I Need a Decal?

There is only one answer to this question, but there still some additional questions that stem from the answer to, "do I need a decal?"

The answer is **YES**. If you live within the Town of Stephens City, you need to have a Town Decal. A Frederick County decal is not the same as a Town of Stephens City Decal nor any other decal within the State of Virginia. You have 30 days after moving into a new jurisdiction to register your vehicle with the Virginia DMV. You only need one decal, not multiple decals.

So, you might be wondering, do I have the right decal?

If you have the decal pictured above on your vehicle, you are in accordance with the Town's Decal law. This decal is a "**Permanent**" decal and does not need to be replaced every year. Beginning in 2010, all decals will be permanent and will be assessed on your first personal property tax bill of the year.

If you do not have that decal pictured above, but have a decal from Stephens City,

you still need a permanent decal. This was the decal sold in 2009 and you need to purchase it as soon as possible. You will still be charged for a decal in 2010 on your personal property tax bill for the 2010 billing year.

Finally, if you do not have a decal, you need to come to the Town office with your vehicle registration. If you have multiple vehicles, you need a decal for each vehicle.

Beginning in the Spring of 2010 the Town will begin to

put "stops" on all transactions at the Virginia DMV. This will not allow you to renew your license, purchase tags for your license plate and any other transaction at the DMV. In addition, your personal property tax will need to be paid, including any outstanding balances.

If you have any questions with regard to Town decals, please contact the Town Office.

Town Administration

Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing end **Tuesday, April 6, 2010** and are due upon receipt.

After **April 6, 2010** a **10% penalty** will be added. On **Tuesday, April 13, 2010** service will be discontinued for delinquency. A reconnect fee of **\$25** plus the full amount of the bill must be paid before service can be restored.

Just a reminder that for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off check or money order payments and payments can now be made online at the Town's website. Water/Sewer bills can be paid using a Visa or MasterCard! If you pay a bill online after the due date, you will still be responsible for the 10% penalty

and if the bill is paid after the shut off date, the \$25 reconnect fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection.

**DO NOT PUT CASH
IN THE DROP BOX!**

From the Town Manager's Desk continued...

Town to assist in pushing snow with Town personnel for several days during the snow emergency declared by Governor McDonnell.

Although the recovery has been slow for many reasons, the response during the recent storms and immediately thereafter went well. I believe that all Town streets were passable within 24 hours after the snow storm had passed. This is not to say that there isn't room for improvement.

As of this Newsletter, the Town is still in the process of snow removal in some areas, many sections of sidewalks still remain snow covered, and the street cor-

ners are not completely cleared.

Stephens City did exceed its snow removal budget by several thousands of dollars and has submitted for reimbursement of funds through FEMA for all expenses that qualify.

In the aftermath of the storm, complaints were received about not having anywhere to park, streets being too narrow, iced over, and most frequent of all, the frustration of having to repeatedly shovel snow from drive ways that were blocked once again by snow plows. All of these complaints are understandable as citizens attempt get back to life as normal and need to make a

living or get back to school.

The Town attempted to help make this recovery as fast as possible with the small amount of equipment and personnel on hand. Several contractors were also hired to assist in the clean up efforts.

We wish to thank the folks who did assist in the clean up effort during the state of emergency due to the storm. The Stephens City Fire & Rescue Company, Frederick County Emergency Services, Dick Sandy, ER Neff Excavation Services, Bradley Largent for helping clean off the sidewalks,

Continued below...

The Planner's Corner...

North Main Street Sidewalk Extension and Corridor Enhancement

The Town applied for the grant in order to extend the sidewalk a into the newly annexed portion of the Town as well as correct existing stormwater drainage issues within the project area. After a thoughtful and required selection process, the Town selected the consultant firm of Land Planning Design Associates (LPDA) to aid the Town with the design and creation of Engineering Plans for the project. LPDA is also partnering with the firms of Triad Engineering Inc. and HW Lochner Inc. Our consultants will be on hand at the meeting to answer any questions.

The Town will be hosting a public meeting on **Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 7:00pm**. We encourage you to come early

as the doors will be open at 6:45pm and our consultants will be on hand to answer any potential questions. The purpose of this meeting is to get public input on the conceptual layout for North Main Street. The conceptual designs are not final and your input is greatly appreciated and will be taken into account with regard to the final design. Our consultants, Land Planning Design Associates (LPDA) will be making a presentation at 7:00pm. The public meeting should last approximately 30 to 45 minutes with the Town Council meeting to follow. Below is a small sampling of the conceptual layout.

Till the next newsletter, this is the Planner's Corner.

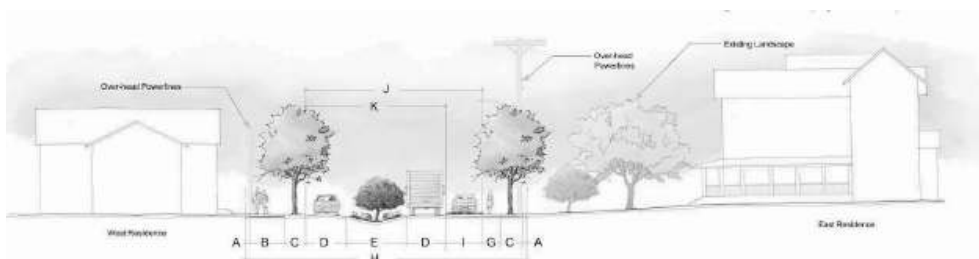
Brian Henshaw
Town Planner

Town of Middletown, David Dill Concrete Inc., Brent Markee, Tony Cook, Clem's Garage and the citizen's for their efforts and patience.

I would also like to express appreciation to the Town's Police Department and Town crews for their many long hours of hard work to keep the roads open and trying to keep life moving as normal here in Stephens City.

Town Manager,

Michael Kehoe



Town Calendar of Events

MARCH



Mar.	2	Town Council at 7:30pm
Mar.	8	Personnel Committee meeting at 5:00pm
Mar.	16	Historic Preservation Committee at 5:00pm
Mar.	17	Happy St. Patrick's Day
Mar..	18	Water/ Sewer meeting at 9:00 am Public Works meeting at 9:30 am Newtown Heritage Festival Mtg. at 7:00pm
Mar.	22	Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:30pm
Mar.	24	Finance at 5:00pm
Mar.	30	Planning Commission at 7:30pm



** All meetings subject to change without notice w/ the exception of the Town Council meeting.*

APRIL

April	6	Water/ Sewer Bills Due without penalty Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm. Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills
April	12	Personnel Committee at 5:00pm
April	13	Water Shut Off Date
April	15	Water/ Sewer Meeting at 9:00am Public Works Meeting at 9:30am Newtown Heritage Festival at 7:00pm
April	20	Historic Preservation Committee at 5:00pm
April	21	Finance Committee at 5:00pm
April	26	Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:30pm
April	27	Planning Commission at 7:30pm



We're on the web!
www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov

The Business Spotlight!

2009

STEPHENS CITY BUSINESS EXPO

On the Newtown Commons

Saturday, May 15, 2010

10:00am – 4:00pm

*(Rain Date: Saturday,
May 22, 2010)*

Come meet local business owners, watch demonstrations, get some freebies and have some fun at the first ever Stephens City Business Expo on the Newtown Commons. Listen to WINC 92.5 fm for more details and check out the Town's Website for additional information to come. Be sure and stop by on May 15, 2010 and see what our local businesses can do for you!

